

**Iowa Commission on the Status of African Americans (SAA)
Office Report
February 2015 – June 2015**

February 2015

National Coalition of State African-American Commissions (NCSAAC) meeting

Des Moines Human Rights Annual Symposium monthly planning meeting

Met with Financial planning advisor about outreach and setting up planning sessions in the greater Des Moines African American community

Met with founder of Iowa Black Business Coalition on how to support and build business participation

Website content review for SAA and all other offices in the CAS Division

Met with local pastor about technical assistance & support for an event

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) meeting

Attended on-going community dialogue about issues related to Ferguson, MO

Met with Director of GEAR-Up program in Iowa College Student Aid Commission to connect to African American organizations & leaders to the initiative by setting up a conference call to discuss (student achievement gap and college readiness for African American students)

March 2015

National Coalition of State African-American Commissions (NCSAAC) meeting

Provided technical assistance to an instructor at Iowa State University about new upcoming course – Teaching & Learning Iowan's & the Civil Rights movement

Met with local pastor and financial planning advisor about connecting other faith based organizations to financial planning sessions

Met with Iowa Dep't Public Health /Office of Minority & Multicultural Health about African American health initiatives

Attended planning meeting and the 29th Annual Symposium on Civil & Human Rights – Tracks: Fair Housing, Employment, Human Rights, Medical/Mental Health, & Law Enforcement/Community

Met with Director's assistant and Latino Affairs about serving on team to address student achievement gap/parental involvement with Iowa Dep't of Education & local Latino leadership

Listened to week long webinars about issues facing African Americans across the country; Ending Violence Against Black Women, Black Women's Median Wealth is \$5, Black Women Have Not "Made It", & Are Racism and patriarchy Making Us Sick: Black Women, Societal Inequity and Health Disparities (#herdreamdeferred)

April 2015

National Coalition of State African-American Commissions (NCSAAC) meeting

GEAR UP program coordinators informational conference call with interested parties in the program

29th Annual Symposium on Civil & Human Rights debriefing meeting

Web training with Eagle Creek – web development company that migrated all of DHR information to new website

Greater Des Moines Friends of Human Rights board meeting
Community discussion about youth development in Polk County with Iowa State University Extension 4H program – introducing 4H to students of color and integrating with school districts

Attended Housing Matters Symposium

Attended Univ. of Iowa lectures series with keynote Daymond John from TV series Shark Tank - tips for successful African American entrepreneurship

Attended Basic Drupal training 2 part series for SAA website

ICSAA Special call-in meeting – Juneteenth

May 2015

National Coalition of State African-American Commissions (NCSAAC) meeting

Criminal Justice Council & Public Safety Advisory Board (PSAB) Meetings

Attended 4th Annual Jabberwock: Red Carpet Affair to Honor & Celebrate the Legacy of the Arts – youth talent competition and award presentations to individuals in the community in the areas of music and theatre

ICSAA 3rd Quarter Meeting – Cedar Rapids

June 2015

NCSAAC meeting

DHR / CAS Division / Office activities & events:

- Set up quarterly commission meetings
- Perform daily office functions; answering telephone, sending out community information emails, updating email and mailing database, updating website, responding to all office inquiries including providing technical assistance and information referral.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Cheeks
Program Coordinator